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Award Number: DAMD17-03-1-0745

TITLE: Neurotrophin Therapy of Neurodegenerative Disorders with Mitochondrial Dysfunction

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REPORT DATE: September 2007

TYPE OF REPORT: Annual

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
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1. REPORT DATE 01-09-2007		2. REPORT TYPE Annual		3. DATES COVERED 1 Sep 2006 – 31 Aug 2007	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Neurotrophin Therapy of Neurodegenerative Disorders with Mitochondrial Dysfunction				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER DAMD17-03-1-0745	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S) Linda L. Bambrick, Ph.D. E-Mail: Lbambric@umaryland.edu				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) University of Maryland, Baltimore Baltimore, MD 21201				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Original contains colored plates: ALL DTIC reproductions will be in black and white.					
14. ABSTRACT This research program will determine whether accelerated neuron death due to increased oxidative stress resulting from mitochondrial dysfunction can be compensated or corrected by neurotrophin stimulation. The experiments will be carried out in two models of mitochondrial dysfunction. 1)hippocampal neurons from the trisomy 16 mouse, which undergo increased apoptosis and have a mitochondrial defect, that has now been identified as a decrease in Complex I-mediated respiration and altered mitochondrial protein expression and 2)neurons chronically treated with the neurotoxin rotenone to induce a defect in mitochondrial function. 0.1-0.5 nM rotenone treatment has now been shown to leave hippocampal neurons vulnerable to a second oxidative stress. A unique aspect of this approach is that the neuronal responsiveness to brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) will be enhanced by by breeding to a mouse line with altered BDNF receptor expression. Neurons with an enhanced response to endogenous BDNF may be more resistant to oxidative stress characteristic of Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders.					
15. SUBJECT TERMS mitochondria, neurotrophin, BDNF, trkB, trisomy 16, oxidative stress, rotenone, Parkinsons					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT	b. ABSTRACT	c. THIS PAGE			USAMRMC
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Introduction and Summary:

This research program will determine whether accelerated neuron death due to mitochondrial dysfunction can be compensated for or corrected by neurotrophin stimulation. This study started in the trisomy 16 mouse (Ts16) where neurons undergo increased apoptosis (Bambrick and Krueger, 1999). In this mouse we had previously shown a defect in neurotrophin signaling through the trkB receptor/brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) ligand signaling pathway (Dorsey et al., 2002), while we and other researchers had found increased oxidative stress (Schuchmann and Heinemann, 2000). I proposed that there was a mitochondrial defect in Ts16 that acted together with the trkB signaling defect to cause neuron death. As a part of the present research program, I have previously demonstrated (Bambrick et al., 2005; Progress Report 2005) that there is a defect in mitochondrial respiration that is specific for Complex I of the electron transport chain, the same complex that is implicated in Parkinson's disease (PD). (Figure 1) and evidence suggested that there was a selective decrease in expression of some mitochondrial proteins including the 20kDa subunit of Complex I and PDH (Progress Report 2006). This work has now been extended (Bambrick and Fiskum, Brain Research, Appendix I).

In order to test the hypothesis that the accelerated neuron death in Ts16 is due to increased oxidative stress I have taken advantage of our ability to grow neurons at different oxygen tensions, the results suggest that increased oxidative stress may not be sufficient to explain increased Ts16 death. This hypothesis will be further tested using sulforaphane, an inducer of a cell's intrinsic antioxidant defense mechanism in parallel with experiments to determine if the antioxidant systems are 1: defective in Ts16; 2: activatable by neurotrophins.

Due to delays in setting up the Ts16xTrkBTK1-/+ to test the neuroprotective effects of increasing BDNF/trkB signaling for Ts16, some of the work on this project has been delayed and therefore a one year no-cost extension was requested and granted.

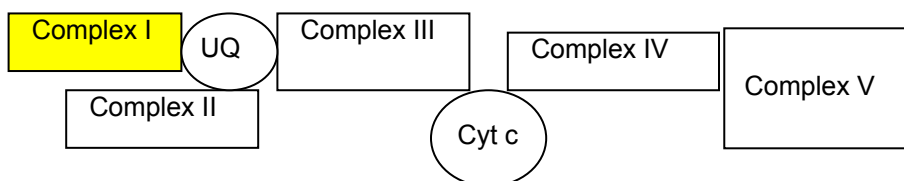


Figure 1. Diagrammatic representation of the Electron Transport Chain (ETC). Fatty acid oxidation and the TCA cycle generate NADH or FADH₂ from substrates such as glutamate/malate or succinate, respectively. Complex I transfers electrons from NADH to ubiquinone (UQ), while Complex II does the same with electrons from FADH₂. Complex III takes electrons from UQ and transfers them to cytochrome c (cyt c). Electrons from cyt c are transferred to O₂ by Complex IV to give H₂O. During this process, protons are pumped out of the mitochondria to generate the electrochemical gradient that is used by the ATP synthetase to make ATP, Complex V=ATPase.

Body of Work:

1. Defining the mitochondrial defect in Ts16 brain.

We have now shown that Ts16 brain mitochondria have a selective defect in Complex I mediated respiration accompanied by decreased levels of the 20Kd Complex I subunit. These changes are qualitatively and quantitatively similar to those seen in Parkinson's disease (Keeney et al., 2006). Interestingly, there was also a decrease in the level of pyruvate dehydrogenase (PDH), PDH levels are often down regulated as a consequence of mitochondrial damage after ischemia (Martin et al., 2005). There was no change in mitochondrial content (measured by porin and cytochrome c levels) and no change or redistribution of the pro- and

anti-apoptotic proteins bax and bcl-2. Functionally the Ts16 mitochondria had no change in either calcium uptake capacity or superoxide generation. These results are presented in Appendix I (Brain Research) and show the progress on Objective I as itemized for years 1 and 3 of the project.

2. Oxidative stress in Ts16 neurons.

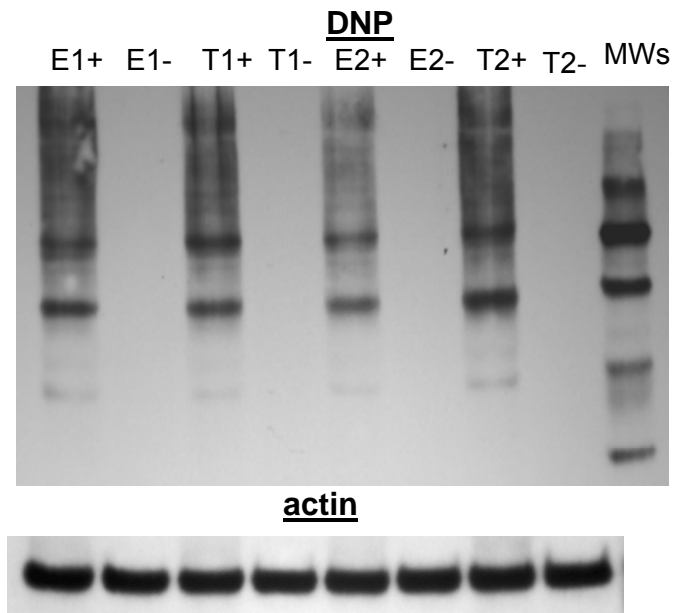


Figure 2: Cortical homogenates from 2 pairs of E16 euploid and Ts16 cortex were derivatized (+) or untreated with DNPH, separated on a gel, blotted and DNP adducts detected. The blot was then stripped and reprobed for actin. 16ug were loaded in each lane. There is a trend to increased DNP formation in Ts16.

Part of the initial hypothesis of this project was that a mitochondrial defect in Ts16 neurons would contribute to the accelerated neuron death by increased generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and, therefore, increased oxidative stress. In the Ts16 cortex, there was not a detectable increase in the rate of ROS generation (Appendix I, Figure 2). Oxidative stress causes the formation of carbonyl groups on protein side chains. These side chains can be derivatized by 2,4 dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH) to DNP adducts which are then detected by anti-DNP antibodies (Oxyblot kit, Chemicon). When samples of cortex were tested for protein carbonyl formation, there was a trend to an increase in DNP adducts in Ts16 (Figure 2), although this is difficult to quantify. When cultured euploid and Ts16 hippocampal neurons were probed with an antibody to nitrotyrosine, an oxidative stress-induced modification, we did not detect an increase in nitrotyrosine staining by immunocytochemistry. These equivocal results raise the possibility that there is

not a substantial increase in ROS in Ts16, either 1: there is a biologically significant increase but it is small enough to be difficult to detect or 2: there is not a large increase in ROS because accelerated Ts16 neuron death is not due to oxidative stress. In work separate from the present grant, my laboratory has shown that cultured neurons reoxygenated in 7% as compared to the normal 20% (room air plus 5% CO₂) oxygen have decreased death after mitochondrial damage and increased free radical generation are experimentally induced by oxygen-glucose deprivation (Figure 3A). Since lower oxygen is neuroprotective, if there is more oxidative stress in Ts16 neurons, Ts16 neuron survival should be preferentially enhanced in lower oxygen. Figure 3B shows that the survival of both control and Ts16 neurons was improved in 5% oxygen, but that the Ts16 cells still died faster. The improvement in both cells shows that even normal cells cultured in 20% O₂ are subject to oxidative stress, consistent with the requirement for anti-oxidants in the serum free supplement used (B27) for neurons health. The present results suggest that increased oxidative stress may not be the predominant cause of accelerated Ts16 neuron death. As a further test of the role of oxidative stress in Ts16 neuron death I am now testing sulforaphane, a potent and novel antioxidant mobilizing drug (Figure 4A) that I have shown can protect normal neurons from OGD and hemin induced death (Figure 4B). Sulforaphane acts via Nrf2, a critical transcription factor activated by oxidative stress. Nrf2

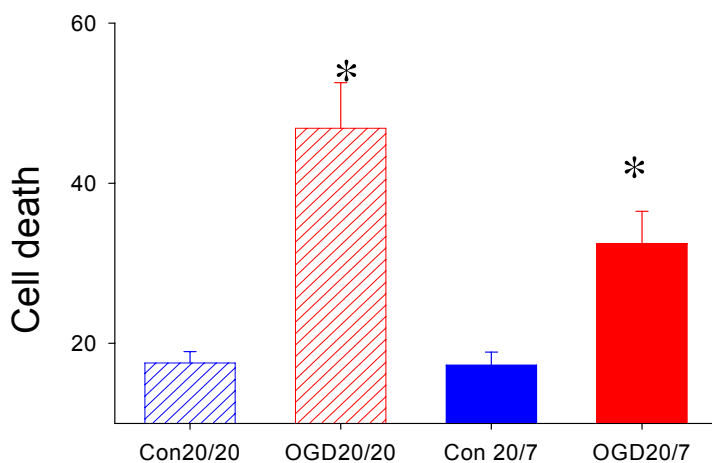


Figure 3A. Mouse hippocampal neurons grown at 20% O₂ for 2 weeks were subjected to 30 minutes of oxygen/glucose deprivation (OGD) and then reoxygenated at either 20 or 7% oxygen in a Biospherix environmental chamber for 24 hours. Control cells experienced the same oxygen concentrations without the OGD. Cell death was determined using the Live/Dead assay from Invitrogen. 24 hours at 7% oxygen did not affect control neuron survival but significantly reduced cell death after OGD. ANOVA and post-hoc SNK analysis, n=7: *different from O₂-matched control, #different from 20/20OGD

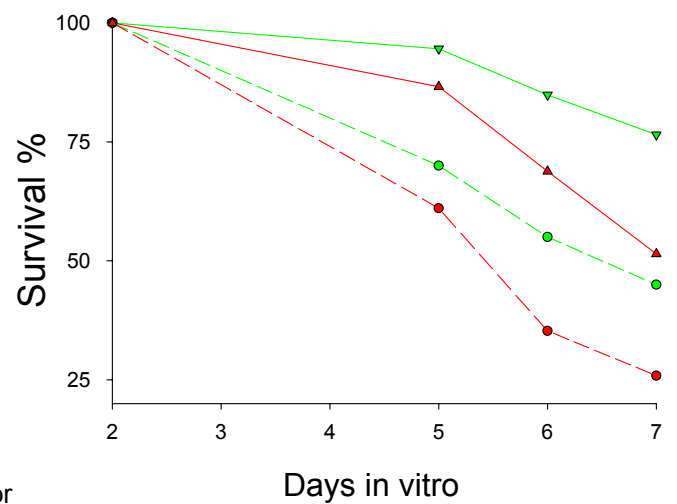


Figure 3B. Euploid (green) and Ts16 (red) neurons isolated from embryonic day 16 cortex were grown on gridded coverslips and maintained in either 5% O₂ (triangles, solid line) or 20% O₂ circles, (dashed line) for 7 days. Neuron survival was determined by counting remaining cells on the grids (Bambrick et al 1999). Survival is expressed relative to the cells counted at 2 days in vitro. Similar results were seen in 4 separate experiments.

knockout mice and neurons cultured from these mice have been shown to be more sensitive to oxidative stress (Kraft et al., 2006). Nrf2 is normally kept in the cytoplasm by the oxygen sensing protein KEAP1. When ROS levels rise they react with cysteines on KEAP1 which releases NRF2 to translocate to the nucleus where it binds the antioxidant-response-element (ARE) and drives the expression of ARE genes (Dinkova-Kostova et al., 2002) including NQO1 (NAD(P)H:quinone oxidoreductase), an antioxidant gene that catalyzes the reduction of numerous endogenous and environmental quinones. (Leonard et al., 2006). Sulforaphane can also release Nrf2 from Keap1 and activate a cell's intrinsic antioxidant pathways. Experiments to test the ability of sulforaphane to rescue Ts16 neurons are in progress. These results will be available by the end of 2007. Further experiments on in vitro imaging of ROS in Ts16 neurons by HET fluorescence are also in progress. These results are part of Objective 1, Year 3 and will complete Objective 1.

3. Other measures of mitochondrial dysfunction in Ts16 neurons.

In vitro fluorescence imaging has shown that the mitochondrial membrane potential recovers more slowly after a brief depolarization in Ts16 than in euploid neurons (Progress report 2005) and that there appear to be lower levels of the mitochondrial pyridine nucleotide NADPH (Progress report 2006, Bambrick 2007). Experiments currently in progress are now titrating in the Complex I inhibitor rotenone in normal neurons to test the hypothesis that the Complex I defect in Ts16 is causing these impairments in mitochondrial function. A new technique for measuring oxygen respiration in living cells will also be used in these experiments to correlate mitochondrial function in cultured cells and brain homogenates. These experiments will address the aims of Objective 2.

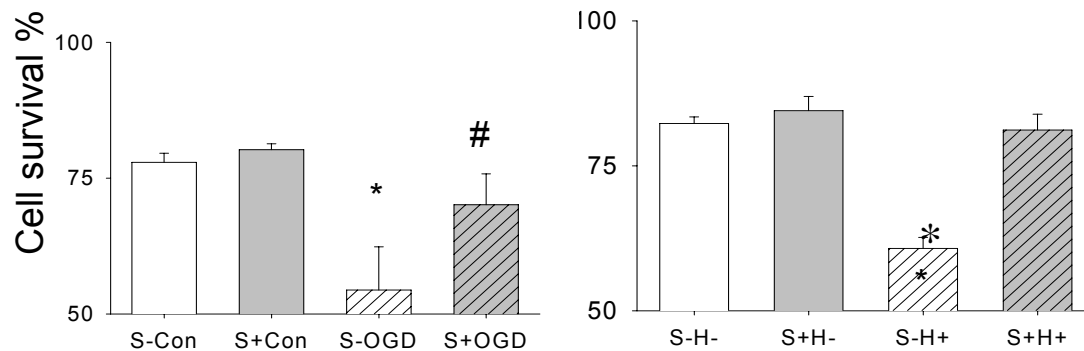
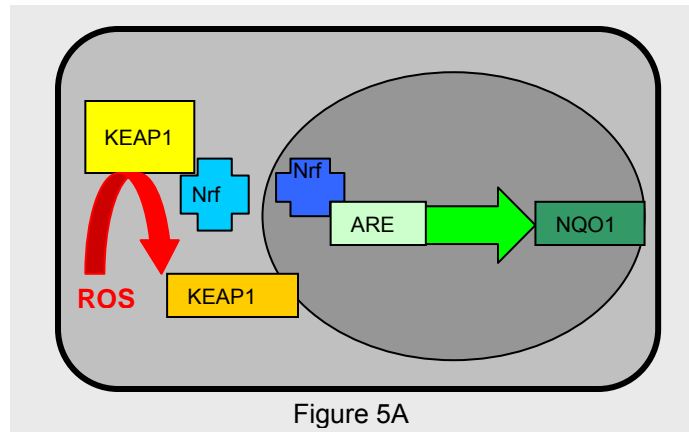


Figure 4A: Increased oxidative stress or the drug sulforaphane can cause the cytoplasmic factor KEAP1 to release the transcription factor Nrf2. Nrf2 then moves to the nucleus, binds antioxidant response element (ARE) sequences and induces the expression of many antioxidant genes including NQO1.

Figure 4B. Sulforaphane (S, 0.5 μ M) protects hippocampal neurons against death induced by OGD (left) or 10 μ M Hemin (right) with no significant effect on control (Con, H-) cell death. n=4-5, ANOVA and post-hoc SNK. * significantly different from S+, # significantly different from S+Control.

4. Solving the Complex I defect in Ts16 mitochondria by improving neurotrophin signaling.

We had initially proposed to test the neuroprotective effects of increasing BDNF/trkB signaling by adenoviral-mediated introduction of trkB into the cultured neurons. However, a transgenic mouse with a knock out of the trkBTK1 gene over-expressed in Ts16 (TK1^{+/-}) has now been developed and we have shown that neurons from Ts16/TK1^{+/-} mice are significantly protected from cell death (Dorsey et al., 2006). These mice are a technical improvement on the initially proposed adenovirus approach in that experiments can be done in brain tissue as well as in cultured cells. In my 2006 annual report I stated that these mice would be used in the previously proposed experiments to directly test the ability of neurotrophin therapy to correct a mitochondrial defect and protect Ts16 neurons. Although the use of the TK^{+/-} mice is an improvement, it has proven to be slower than I had anticipated to get a colony up and running and to cross the TK1^{+/-} mice to generate Ts16/TK1^{+/-}. In order to finish this project in June 2007 I requested and received a one year, no-cost extension of my grant through September 30, 2008. This work is ongoing.

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Bambrick LL: Appendix I

Mitochondrial dysfunction in mouse trisomy 16 brain.

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Text Pages: 24

Tables : 1

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Abstract

Mitochondrial function in the brain of mouse trisomy 16, an animal model of Down syndrome and Alzheimer's disease with accelerated neuron death, was studied in isolated cortex mitochondria. Using an oxygen-sensitive Clarke electrode, a selective 16% decrease in respiration was detected with the Complex I substrates malate and glutamate but not with the Complex II substrate succinate. Western blotting revealed a 20% decrease in the 20 kDa subunit of Complex I in Ts16 brain cortex homogenates with no significant decrease in marker proteins for the other complexes of the electron transport chain. Although no differences in H₂O₂ production or maximal calcium uptake were detected in the Ts16 mitochondria, there was an 18% decrease in pyruvate dehydrogenase levels, a change associated with oxidative stress in ischemia. These results are similar to those found in Parkinson's disease suggesting some neurodegenerative diseases may have mitochondrial pathology as a common step.

Section: 1: Cellular and Molecular Biology of Nervous Systems

Key words:

Complex I, Pyruvate dehydrogenase, Parkinson's disease, Down syndrome

List of abbreviations

Alzheimer's disease, AD; Brain-derived neurotrophic factor, BDNF; Carbonyl cyanide 4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenylhydrazone, FCCP; Cyclosporine A, CsA; Down Syndrome, DS; Down Syndrome Critical Region, DSCR; Embryonic day, E; Electron transport chain, ETC; Glutamate, Glu; Malate, Mal; mitochondrial permeability transition, MPT; nicotinamide, NADH; Parkinson's Disease, PD; pyruvate dehydrogenase, PDH; reactive

oxygen species, ROS; respiratory control ratio, RCR; Rotenone, Rot; Succinate, Suc;
Superoxide dismutase SOD; Trisomy, Ts.

Key for Greek alphabet characters

= mu as in micromolar

@ = alpha

\$ = beta

1. Introduction

The trisomy 16 (Ts16) mouse has a triplication of genes that are found on chromosomes 3, 16 and 21 in humans. Mouse chromosome 16 contains about 180 genes from human chromosome 21 including the Down Syndrome Critical Region (DSCR), which is thought to cover most of the genes responsible for Down Syndrome (DS, human trisomy 21) (Hattori et al., 2000; Mural et al., 2002). The Ts16 mouse is thus a model of aneuploidy that may replicate some of the features of DS. In light of the higher prevalence and earlier onset of Alzheimer's disease (AD) in DS patients (Mecocci et al., 1994; Smith et al., 1998), a number of abnormalities of the Ts16 mouse suggest it may be a model for some of the pathology of AD as well as DS. Such abnormalities, including learning defects, altered neuronal migration, smaller brains, and cranial and cardiac malformations have been observed in mice with full or partial triplication of chromosome 16 (see e.g. Epstein, 1986, Haydar et al., 2000; Kleschevnikov et al., 2004, Delabar et al., 2006; Moore, 2006).

Attempts to understand the etiology of these pathologies have involved studies of cultured cells from Ts16 and DS brains. Increased apoptotic neuron death, altered calcium homeostasis and increased reactive oxygen species (ROS) levels and oxidative stress have been reported in DS and Ts16 neurons and astrocytes (Busciglio and Yankner, 1995; Bambrick et al., 1997; 1999; Schuchmann et al., 1998; Schuchmann and Heinemann, 2000). A mitochondrial defect has been suggested as the basis of increased ROS, decreased mitochondrial membrane potential and changes in NADH observed in Ts16 mitochondria (see e.g. Schuchmann et al., 1998). We have now

directly analyzed mitochondrial function in Ts16 by isolating brain mitochondria and measuring mitochondrial respiration and levels of relevant mitochondrial proteins. We find that Ts16 brain mitochondria have a selective defect in Complex I-mediated respiration, similar to that observed in Parkinson's Disease (PD) (Parker and Swerdlow, 1998; Shults et al., 2004), with decreased levels of the 20 kDa subunit of Complex I protein (ND6) and the E1 α subunit of the pyruvate dehydrogenase (PDH) complex: a mitochondrial matrix protein also affected in ischemia and neurodegenerative disorders including Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome (reviewed in Martin et al., 2005).

2. Results

At E15.5, Ts16 brains are slightly smaller than euploid (Haydar et al 2000), as reflected in the reduced protein yield/brain found for Ts16 (0.8 Ts16/euploid). However, the Ts16 porin/actin ratio was not different (1.0 ± 0.1 of euploid, $n=6$) suggesting that the mitochondrial content per cell was not changed. Levels of the pro- and anti-apoptotic proteins bax and bcl-2 and of cytochrome c were measured by western blot. Bax is known to redistribute from the cytoplasm to the mitochondria in response to apoptotic signals. Moreover, release of cytochrome c from mitochondria is associated with initiation of both apoptosis and necrosis. We found no differences in the amounts of these proteins in Ts16 (Figure 1) nor in their distribution between mitochondrial and cytoplasmic fractions.

Increased oxidative damage has been reported in Ts16 and DS cells in vitro. Since mitochondria are a principle generator of ROS, ROS generation was measured in

euploid and Ts16 cortical fractions using the horseradish peroxidase/ampex red assay (Starkov and Fiskum, 2003). This assay detects both H_2O_2 and superoxide, which is converted to H_2O_2 by the exogenous SOD in the reaction mixture. Figure 2 shows that no significant difference was found in H_2O_2 production in Ts16. Addition of 4 μM rotenone to inhibit Complex I increased ROS production equally in euploid and Ts16.

The maximum calcium uptake capacity of isolated Ts16 mitochondria was measured as previously described in the absence and presence of the mitochondrial permeability transition (MPT) pore inhibitor cyclosporine A (CsA) (Bambrick et al., 2006). Using fura-6FF to detect solution calcium, repeated additions of calcium were made. Uptake into mitochondria is reflected by the decrease in fluorescence (Figure 3A). Figure 3B shows that there was no difference in calcium capacity, the calcium accumulated up to the last completely taken up addition, between mitochondria from Ts16 or euploid brain. Unlike in adult brain or permeabilized cultures of postnatal cerebellar granule cells (Bambrick et al., 2006), CsA slightly enhanced the Ca^{2+} uptake capacity of euploid E15.5 cortex mitochondria under these experimental conditions, although no significant effect of CsA was seen for Ts16.

Mitochondrial function in Ts16 brain was assessed by measuring respiration in mitochondrial fractions from euploid and Ts16 cortex. Figure 4 shows representative traces for respiration with the Complex I substrates glutamate/malate. The rate of oxygen consumption in State 3 is slower in Ts16. When State 3 and State 4_o are compared for Malate/glutamate (Complex I) or Succinate/rotenone (Complex II) respiration (Table 1) there is a selective 16% decrease in Complex I State 3 in Ts16. Data are shown as the means of the absolute respiration values and as the means of

the Ts16/euploid ratios from each experiment. State 4_o was slightly but not significantly reduced for Ts16 Complex I-mediated respiration and not affected when respiration was supported by Succinate/rotenone. The respiratory control ratio (RCR), a measure of how well-coupled oxidative phosphorylation is in the mitochondria, was 7 ± 0.7 for euploid as compared to 6.6 ± 1.3 for Ts16 cortex (with malate/glutamate as substrates). These results are consistent with unaffected respiration through Complex II and suggest that the mitochondria in Ts16 cortex are intact and that respiration is normal from Complex II to Complex IV, but that either the generation of NADH from malate/glutamate or its utilization by Complex I are defective in Ts16.

Changes in levels of mitochondrial proteins could cause the decreased Complex I-mediated respiration reported in Figure 4 and Table 1. Accordingly, brain homogenates from euploid and Ts16 mice were collected and Western blot analysis performed for selected proteins from each of the 5 electron transport chain (ETC) complexes and the E1 α subunit of pyruvate dehydrogenase (PDH). Western blots for the selected ETC complex proteins and PDH were done and then each blot was stripped and reprobed first for porin and second for actin. Figure 5A shows representative blots of the proteins detected. In Figure 5B, the Ts16 data are expressed as the average of the percent change from euploid brains for each experiment in box plot format showing the median, mean and 5th/95th percentiles of the distributions. There is a pattern of decreased levels for 5 of the 6 mitochondrial proteins in Ts16 with the exception being Complex IV. In particular, the 20 kDa protein of Complex I and the E1 α subunit of PDH are decreased with the “zero” unchanged line outside of the 5-95% confidence limits for the proteins. When the raw Complex I/porin or PDH/porin values

are compared for euploid and Ts16 by paired t-test, there were significant decreases in levels of the 20 kDa Complex I subunit (20%) and PDH (18%) in Ts16 cortex.

3. Discussion

Analysis of mitochondrial respiratory protein immunoreactivity and bioenergetic function, revealed that the Ts16 mitochondria showed selective defects in Complex I-mediated respiration with decreased levels of the 20 kDa Complex I subunit and of pyruvate dehydrogenase (PDH).

Mitochondrial content (expressed as the porin/actin ratio in the homogenate), levels of critical mitochondrial proteins such as cytochrome c and the electron transport chain (ETC) proteins and respiration are grossly normal in Ts16 cortex. These results are consistent with Ts16 neurons being viable at E15.5, with normal numbers of mitochondria: consistent with the report that at E15.5, the Ts16 cortex is still growing (Haydar et al., 2000); a catastrophic failure of mitochondrial function would not support the cell proliferation and migration occurring at this time. The same study reported a small increase in cortical cell apoptosis at E15.5; we did not see any corresponding increase in bax or decrease in bcl-2 expression. Either these pro- and anti-apoptotic proteins are not involved in the Ts16 cell death or the absolute numbers of cells dying in Ts16 cortex were too small for a change in bcl-2-family proteins to be detected in cortical homogenates.

We found no difference in maximal calcium uptake in Ts16 mitochondria (Figure 4) using glutamate and malate as substrates. Although calcium dysregulation is a consistently observed feature of Ts16 with increased cytoplasmic and endoplasmic

reticulum store calcium (see e.g. Bambrick et al., 1997; Schuchmann et al., 1998) and an impaired calcium buffering capacity (Cardenas et al., 1999), the present results suggest that the small decrease in Complex-I respiration we measure (16%, Table 1) might only lead to a slight slowing of mitochondrial calcium uptake and not affect capacity. Such a change in mitochondrial calcium uptake kinetics could, however, affect the shape of calcium transients in neurons (see e.g. Malli et al., 2003). Euploid mitochondria showed an increase in calcium capacity upon addition of CsA. Neuronal mitochondria from adult brain are not sensitive to CsA- the embryonic sensitivity likely reflects a developmental gradient in cyclophilin D (the CsA receptor) expression (Eliseev et al., 2006). The lack of detectable effect of CsA in Ts16 may be a consequence of the increased variability in Ts16- it is noticeable that an increased variability in cytoplasmic and endoplasmic reticulum calcium is also seen among individual cells in Ts16 cultures (see e.g. Bambrick et al., 1997).

We detected a small but significant decrease in Complex I-mediated respiration together with a decrease in mitochondrial levels of PDH subunit E1@ and of the 20 kDa subunit of Complex I in Ts16 mitochondria. PDH levels and activity have been reported to be decreased after cerebral ischemia/reperfusion (Zaidan et al., 1998; Bogaert et al., 2000; Martin et al., 2005; Vereczki et al., 2006) and levels of Complex I proteins or Complex I activity have been reported to be decreased in PD (Keeney et al., 2006). Levels of both the 20 kDa subunit protein and PDH are known to be sensitive to oxidative damage with oxidation leading to increased degradation and decreased protein levels. It is possible that inhibition of Complex I could lead to an increased generation of free radicals, depending on the site of inhibition within this

macromolecular assembly. However, Figure 3 shows that no significant difference was found in H_2O_2 production in Ts16. This is most consistent with the defect in Complex I respiration occurring prior to the NADH dehydrogenase site or with the major sites of free radical production in the absence of inhibitors being outside of the electron transport chain, e.g. at the ketoglutarate dehydrogenase complex (Starkov et al., 2004). Because respiration is decreased, the rate of H_2O_2 /nmole oxygen consumed is slightly increased in Ts16. It is not clear whether there is a primary defect in Complex I respiration leading to a slight increase in free radical generation which damages the sensitive 20 kDa protein and PDH or whether there is an increased generation of free radicals from some other cause which damages PDH and the 20 kDa protein leading, secondarily, to decreased Complex I- mediated respiration.

Mitochondrial function in Ts16 has been previously studied in cultured hippocampal neurons, where a decreased reduction of pyridine nucleotides after glutamate stimulation, lower levels of glutathione and rescue of accelerated Ts16 neuron death by antioxidants (Schuchmann and Heinemann 1998, Schuchmann et al., 2000) have been interpreted to be the consequence of an underlying mitochondrial defect. In the Ts1Cje mouse, a partial trisomy model, cultured neurons and astrocytes have increased ROS levels and astrocytes have a decrease in mitochondrial membrane potential (Shukkur et al. 2006). Similarly, cultured neurons from human trisomy 21 brains show evidence of increased ROS and free radical damage (Busciglio and Yankner, 1995) while cultured human Ts21 astrocytes have a decreased mitochondrial membrane potential (Busciglio et al., 2002). One limitation of previous studies is that the increased ROS and decreased mitochondrial membrane potential could be

secondary to the increased apoptosis in Ts16 and DS neurons. The present results showing a significant defect in mitochondrial respiration in the absence of increased ROS generation and at a time in vivo when there is not a significant increase in Ts16 neuron death suggest that mitochondrial dysfunction may be an early event in the pathology of Ts16.

Besides the sequence of genes from the human DSCR, mouse chromosome 16 contains major stretches of genes encoded on human chromosomes 3 and 16 with minor contributions of sequences encoded on human chromosomes 8, 12 and 22 (Mural et al., 2002). Relating a specific defect to triplication of a specific gene has proven difficult. Given that triplication results in only a 1.5-fold gene dosage effect, there may not be such a one-to-one relation and, instead, trisomy likely leads to disease due to an accumulation of minor defects that can even affect the expression of genes outside the triplicated chromosome. Indeed, one molecular difference that has been detected in Ts16 is an over-expression of the truncated form of the neurotrophin receptor *trkB*, encoded on mouse chromosome 3 (Tessarollo et al., 1993), which leads to a decreased sensitivity to brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) (Dorsey et al., 2000). The improved neuron survival in Ts16 mice with a knockdown of truncated *trkB* expression (Dorsey et al., 2006) shows that the altered expression of this neurotrophin receptor contributes to the Ts16 phenotype. The present results show that there is a selective, mitochondrial-intrinsic defect in Ts16, which exists either in parallel to or as a consequence of the decreased BDNF signaling in these brains.

Is the magnitude of the observed changes in Complex I-mediated respiration and 20 kDa subunit and PDH levels sufficient to cause increased death in Ts16 neurons? In

a fly model of oxidative stress and mitochondrial dysfunction (Walker et al., 2006) a selective defect in subunit b of succinate dehydrogenase (Complex II) was associated with a 56% decrease in Complex II mediated respiration, a 25% increase in ROS generation and a reduction in lifespan to $\frac{1}{4}$ wildtype. In a recent study of PD (Keeney et al., 2006), isolated brain mitochondrial proteins showed a 30% reduction in the rate of complex I catalytic activity and small 11-34 % changes in Complex I, but not Complex II-V, proteins, while 20% or smaller decreases in Complex I catalytic activity have been found in mitochondria isolated from peripheral tissue in PD. For PDH, studies have found that both activity and expression in brain drop rapidly after cardiac arrest and resuscitation due to oxidative damage to the protein (Bogaert et al., 2000; Martin et al., 2005). In the dog hippocampus there is a 40% decrease in PDH abundance by Western blot 24 hours after cardiac arrest/resuscitation which is correlated with extensive brain damage (including, e.g., a 50% reduction in neuronal cell numbers in the CA1 region, Vereczki et al., 2006). Therefore the 18% decrease in PDH reported here for Ts16 brain might represent considerable damage and could be consistent with the accelerated death reported in cultured Ts16 neurons (Bambrick and Krueger, 1999). Clearly the magnitude of the changes reported here for Ts16 is in the same range as those found in PD and raise the possibility that distinct neurological disorders such as PD and AD may have common mitochondrial components of their pathophysiology.

4. Experimental Procedures

Mouse breeding and identification of Ts16 fetuses

Male double Robertsonian mice (Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME) were mated overnight with female C57BL/6J mice. The next day was designated as day 0.5 of gestation (E 0.5). Pregnant female mice were killed by cervical dislocation at E 15.5 and the fetuses removed, chilled on ice and decapitated. Normal and Ts16 fetuses were easily distinguishable (Bekker et al., 2006) using criteria previously validated by karyotyping and by fluorescence in situ hybridization (Bambrick et al., 1995; Strovel et al., 1999). Between 3 and 6 brains were pooled in each experiment. Our average Ts16 fetus/litter frequency was one. Some litters had no Ts16 fetuses and were not used in this study. The average number of litters/experiment was four. Because brain development at this age is so rapid (see e.g. Haydar et al., 2000), euploid and Ts16 littermate pairs were used in all experiments to minimize the effects of an up to 16 hr differences in gestational age between litters. Animal care and all procedures were performed in accordance with National Institute of Health guidelines and under the supervision of the institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

Preparation of mitochondrial fractions and of homogenates

Embryonic brains were dissected out of the skulls and the cerebral hemispheres were freed of meninges, transferred to ice-cold homogenization buffer [in mM mannitol 225; sucrose 75, HEPES 5, EGTA 1; pH 7.4 with KOH] at a concentration of 200 #l/brain and dissociated in a glass homogenizer. After centrifugation at 5 minutes at 1000xg, the supernatant was recovered and centrifuged again at 10,000 x g. The resulting pellet was resuspended in KCl buffer [in mM KCl 125; K₂PO₄ 2; MgCl₂ 1; HEPES 20; pH 7] at 20 #l/brain and this crude mitochondrial fraction was kept on ice

until used for respiration or for calcium uptake experiments. All respiration and calcium uptake experiments were performed within 2 hours of sample isolation. At this age there are very few synapses in the mouse brain (Demarque et al., 2002) so the synaptosomal contribution is minimal. Aliquots of the homogenate (after the first centrifugation), of the crude mitochondrial fraction (the pellet after the second centrifugation) or the cytoplasmic fraction (the supernatant after the second centrifugation) were frozen at -20°C for use in western blotting. Protein was assayed by Biorad.

Respiration

Oxygen consumption was measured with a Clarke-type electrode from Strathkelvin at 37°C . Rates of respiration are expressed as $\text{nmol O}_2/\text{min}/\text{mg protein}$. State 3 respiration through Complex I was determined in the presence of 5 mM glutamate, 5 mM malate, 1 mM ADP in KCl buffer. State 3 respiration through Complex II was determined by replacing the malate/glutamate with 5 mM succinate and 4 μM rotenone. State 4_o respiration was measured in the presence of 0.5 mg/ml oligomycin, an inhibitor of the ATP synthase. While the State 4_o respiration determined in the presence of oligomycin is not equivalent to the classical State 4 rate obtained after a small bolus of ADP is almost completely converted to ATP, the use of oligomycin eliminates the contribution of ATP cycling via hydrolysis by contaminating ATPases and resynthesis by the mitochondrial ATP synthase to State 4 respiration and is therefore a more specific indicator of mitochondrial proton cycling limited by passive proton leak across the inner mitochondrial membrane. The respiratory control ratio was calculated as State 3/State 4_o (Kristian et al., 2006). Uncoupled respiration was measured with

malate/glutamate/ADP and $1\mu\text{M}$ Carbonyl cyanide 4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenylhydrazone (FCCP).

Peroxide production

Hydrogen peroxide production was measured fluorometrically in KCl buffer with 0.5 mg BSA, 0.25 mM EGTA, 5 U/ml horseradish peroxidase, 40 U/ml Cu,Zn superoxide dismutase and $1\mu\text{M}$ amplex red (Starkov and Fiskum, 2003). The generation of H_2O_2 in the mitochondrial suspension was measured as an increase in fluorescence measured at 585 nm with 550 nm excitation. The dye response was calibrated by the addition of a known amount of hydrogen peroxide solution.

Calcium uptake

Calcium uptake capacity was measured in the mitochondrial fraction in 125 mM KCl, 20 mM HEPES, 2 mM KH_2PO_4 , 4 mM MgCl_2 , 3 mM ATP, 5 mM malate, 5 mM glutamate, pH 7.0, 1 mM EGTA with 250 nM fura-6F (pentapotassium salt) in a Hitachi F-2500 spectrophotometer, 37°C , excitation at 340/380. Repeated pulses of calcium (20 nmoles/addition) were added at 5 minute intervals. The solution calcium initially rises and then falls due to mitochondrial uptake. "Calcium capacity", the total amount of calcium accumulated through the last addition, is expressed per mg protein of the mitochondrial fraction (Bambrick et al., 2006).

Western blotting

Homogenate, mitochondrial and cytoplasmic fractions from E15.5 euploid and Ts16 mouse brain pairs were separated by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis using MES SDS buffer on 4-12% bis tris gels (NuPAGE, Invitrogen), transferred to PVDF membranes (NuPAGE Transfer buffer, Invitrogen) and probed for cytochrome c

(1/5000, PharMingen), bax (1/1000, Upstate) or bcl-2(C-2, 1/5000, Santa Cruz) and then stripped using Restore Western Blot Stripping Buffer (Pierce) and reprobed for actin (1/5000, Sigma). In experiments assaying levels of ETC complex proteins or PDH, the blots were probed with the rodent OXPHOS cocktail from Mitosciences (see Figure 5A), or PDH (1/1000, Molecular Probes) stripped and reprobed for porin (1/5000, Calbiochem) then stripped and probed a third time for actin. The presence of the primary antibody was detected using horseradish peroxidase-conjugated anti-rabbit or anti-mouse secondary (1/5000, Vector) in Tris-buffered saline with Tween-20. Following incubation with ECL Plus (Amersham, Piscataway, NJ, USA) bands were exposed to CL-X Posure Film (Pierce). The film was developed, band density was analyzed with a 2000R Image station (Kodak) and normalized to either porin or actin. Each experiment consisted of one lane containing the homogenate from euploid cortices and the adjacent lane containing the homogenate prepared from that day's littermate Ts16 cortices. So that for any experiment the euploid and Ts16 samples were treated identically.

Materials

All cell culture supplies were from Invitrogen and chemical reagents from Sigma unless otherwise noted.

Statistics

Three to six Ts16 and euploid brains from an average of four litters were pooled in each experiment. N is the number of separate experiments. The significance of differences in respiration, ROS generation and calcium uptake was determined by paired t-test. For Western blots, the Ts16 data are reported as percent change from euploid (change score). Where the 0% change level was outside the 5-95% percentile

of the Ts16 distribution, the raw protein/porin values for euploid and Ts16 samples were compared by paired t-test. Paired t-tests were used to compare littermate samples and thus control for differences in average gestational age of the fetuses or any differences in maternal environment from experiment to experiment.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by DAMD 17-03-1-0745 to LLB. We would like to thank Ms. Weili Dai for her expert technical assistance and Dr. Bruce Krueger for reading this manuscript.

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Figure Legends

Figure 1: Distribution of mitochondrial proteins between the mitochondrial (pellet, lanes 1&2) and cytoplasmic (soluble, lanes 3&4) fractions for euploid and Ts16 brains. Similar results were found in 5 separate experiments. Densitometry showed no differences between protein amount or distribution between euploid and Ts16 samples.

Figure 2: ROS production measured by Amplex red in euploid (white) and Ts16 (grey) cortical mitochondrial fractions in the presence of malate (5mM) and glutamate (5mM) with ADP (1 mM open bars) or ADP and rotenone (4 #M, stippled bars). Means and SEM for N = 4 euploid and 3 Ts16 experiments. * Significantly different from 0 rotenone, $p < 0.01$.

Figure 3: Calcium uptake in Euploid and Ts16 cortical mitochondria. Figure 3A shows euploid mitochondria (20 mg) with repeated pulses of calcium (20 nmoles/addition, arrow heads) added at 5 minute intervals. The solution calcium initially rises and then the mitochondria take up the calcium and solution calcium returns to baseline. The cumulative calcium to the last completely taken up addition is calculated as the calcium capacity and expressed per mg protein of the mitochondrial fraction. B: means and SEM of N = 4-6 experiments for euploid (white) and Ts16 (grey) cortical mitochondrial fractions in the absence (open bars) or presence (hatched bars) of CsA. *significantly from 0 CsA by paired t-test, $p < 0.05$.

Figure 4: Respiration is impaired in Ts16 mitochondria. Euploid (solid line) and Ts16 (dotted line). Oxygen consumption in the presence of malate and glutamate was initiated by the addition of ADP to measure State 3; state 4_o respiration was determined after the addition of oligomycin and uncoupled respiration by the addition of FCCP.

Figure 5A: Euploid and Ts16 cortical homogenates run on 4-12% bis/tris gels transferred to PDF membranes and immunoblotted for ETC proteins [Complex I, 20 kDa protein: ND6; Complex II 30 kDa protein FeS; Complex III core 2 protein; Complex IV COX I; Complex V @ subunit, Mitosciences #MS604] or PDH E1 @ subunit. Gels were stripped and reprobed for porin and actin.

Figure 5B: Box plot of Ts16 mitochondrial protein expression. Densitometry values from western blots were normalized to porin and expressed as a percent change from the littermate euploid cortex samples for each experiment. Data from N= 4-6 experiments. Boxes are the 5th and 95th percentiles, line is median, dotted line is mean. * significantly different from euploid by paired t-test of the protein/porin ratios, $p < 0.05$.

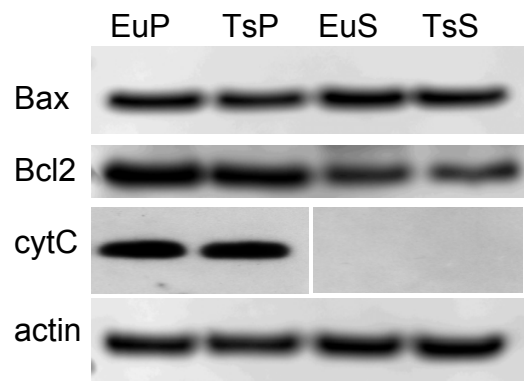


FIGURE 1

Figure2

Bambrick LL: Appendix I

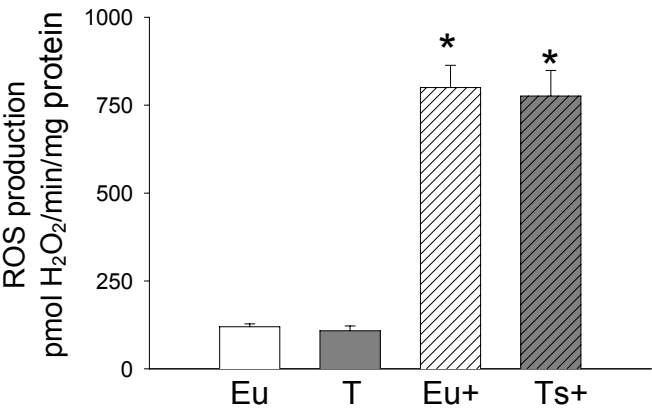


FIGURE 2

Figure3

Bambrick LL: Appendix I

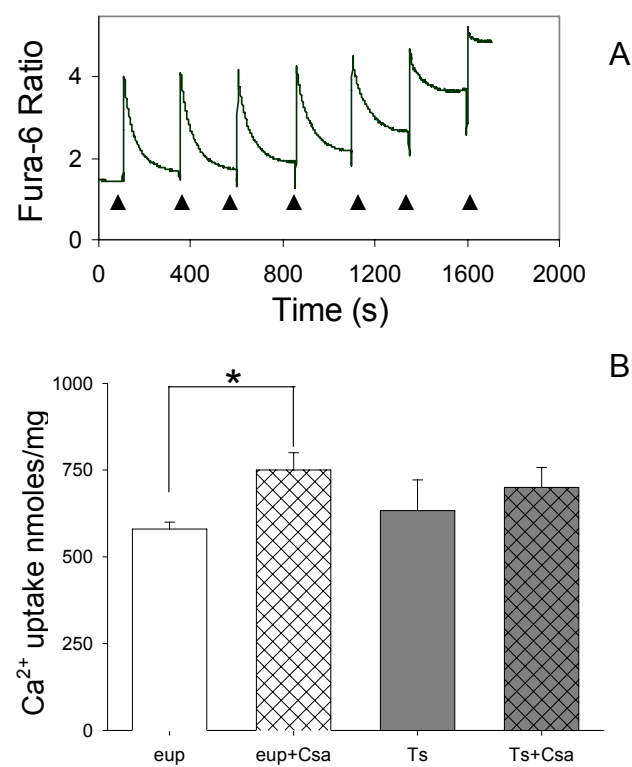


FIGURE 3

Figure4

Bambrick LL: Appendix I

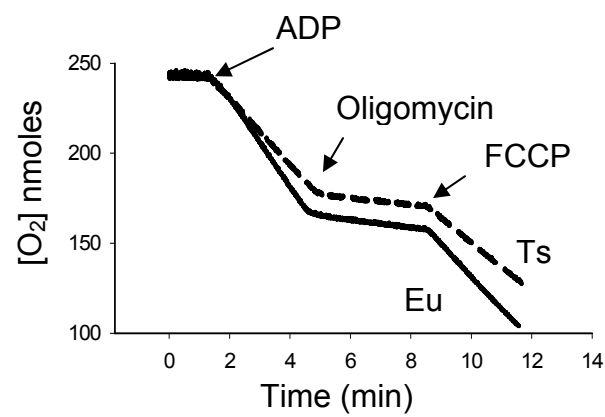


FIGURE 4

Figure5

Bambrick LL: Appendix I

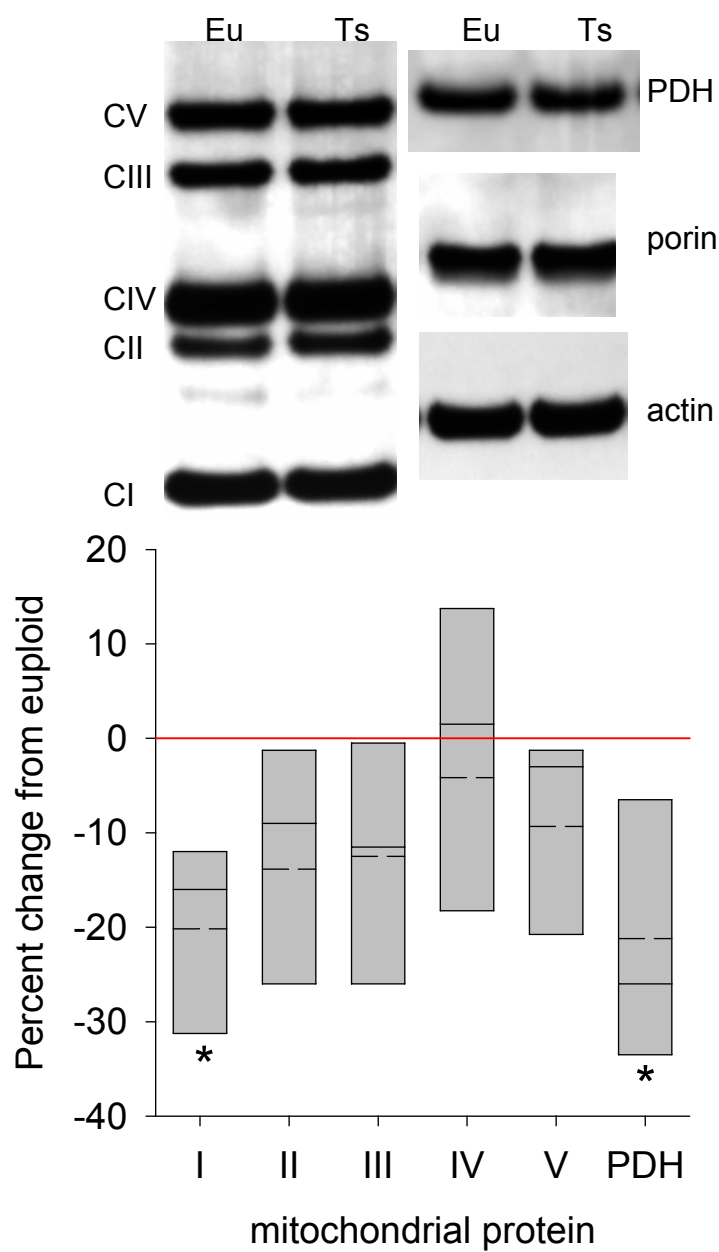


FIGURE 5

Table 1: Complex I-mediated respiration is decreased in Ts16.

	State 3		State 4 _o	
	Complex I Mal/Glu	Complex II Suc/Rot	Complex I Mal/Glu	Complex II Suc/Rot
euploid	30.8±2.1	36.8± 2.7	4.4±0.9	6.7±0.7
Ts16	25.9±1.6*	37.6± 2.2	3.9±0.9	7.0±0.5
Ts16/euploid	0.84±0.02**	1.02±0.04	1.2±0.4	1.1±0.3

Means ± SEM, N=4–7. *Significantly different from euploid by paired t-test, $p < 0.05$,
 **significantly different from 1, $p < 0.01$.